

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

THOMAS J. CAPANO,

Petitioner,

V.

Civ. Act. No. 06-58-***

THOMAS L. CARROLL,

Warden, and **JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III**,
Attorney General for the State of Delaware,

Respondents.

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to Rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, respondents move for an extension of time in which to file an answer to the petition. In support thereof, respondents state the following:

1. The petitioner, Thomas J. Capano, has applied for federal habeas relief, challenging his 1999 conviction by a Delaware Superior Court jury for first degree murder. D.I. 1. By the terms of the Court's order of January 24, 2007, an answering brief is due to be filed on April 16, 2007. D.I. 23.

2. Counsel for respondents have been, and continue to be, diligently working on numerous cases before this Court and the state courts, including other first degree murder cases. However, the workload for the Appeals Division attorneys is currently very substantial. Due to the complexity of the legal arguments case and counsel's current caseload, additional time is needed to complete the brief and have it reviewed in the ordinary course of business.

3. Under Habeas Rule 4, the Court has the discretion to give respondents an extension of time exceeding the 40-day limit in Civil Rule 81(a)(2). *Clutchette v. Rushen*, 770 F.2d 1469, 1473-

74 & n.4 (9th Cir. 1985); *Kramer v. Jenkins*, 108 F.R.D. 429, 431-32 (N.D. Ill. 1985). The comment to Rule 4 expressly states that the district court has "the discretion to take into account various factors such as the respondents' workload" in determining the period of time that should be allowed to answer the petition.

4. This is respondents' first request for an extension of time to file an answering brief.

5. Respondents submit that an extension of time to and including June 8, 2007 in which to file an answer is reasonable. Respondents submit herewith a proposed order.

/s/ Loren C. Meyers
Chief of Appeals Division
Del. Bar. ID No. 2210

/s/ Elizabeth R. McFarlan
Deputy Attorney General
Del. Bar. ID No. 3759

Department of Justice
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 577-8500

DATE: April 10, 2007

RULE 7.1.1 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that counsel for the petitioner, Joseph M. Bernstein, Esquire, has been contacted and he has no objection to the subject matter of this motion.

/s/ Elizabeth R. McFarlan
Deputy Attorney General

Counsel for Respondents

Date: April 10, 2007

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

THOMAS J. CAPANO,

Petitioner,

v.

Civ. Act. No. 06-58-***

THOMAS L. CARROLL,

Warden, and **JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III,**
Attorney General for the State of Delaware,

Respondents.

ORDER

This ____ day of _____, 2007,

WHEREAS, respondents having requested an extension of time in which to file an answer,
and

WHEREAS, it appearing to the Court that the requested extension is timely made and good
cause has been shown for the extension,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that respondents' answering brief shall be filed on or before June
8, 2007.

United States District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 10, 2007, I electronically filed a motion for extension of time with the Clerk of Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing to Joseph M. Bernstein, Esq.

/s/ Elizabeth R. McFarlan
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 577-8500
Del. Bar. ID No. 3759
elizabeth.mcfarlan@state.de.us